

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ANTANA 00781 081422Z
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-12 ISO-00 MMO-04 COME-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 /050 W
-----042501 081424Z /53

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FM AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0474
INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
USLO PEKING

UNCLAS ANTANANARIVO 0781

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, EAID, ECRP, PEPR, CH, MA
SUBJECT: CERP 0002: MADAGASCAR'S RELATIONS WITH PRC

1. PRESS REPORTS THAT TWO MEMBERS OF MADAGASCAR'S SUPREME
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, MARO RAYMOND AND MANANDAFY RAKOTONI-
RINA, AS WELL AS MINISTER FOR ECONOMY & COMMERCE JUSTIN
RARIVOSON, LEFT ANTANANARIVO MAY 1ST TO VISIT THE RPC,
ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTRY OF ECONOMY & COMMERCE TECHNICIANS.
ACCORDING TO THE MADAGASCAR GOVERNMENT PRESS BULLETIN,
THEY WILL DISCUSS COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY WITH PRC OFFICIALS
DURING THEIR TEN-DAY VISIT. DAILY MADAGASCAR MATIN ON
MAY 5TH CARRIED SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT VERSION THAT THEY
WOULD DISCUSS TECHNICAL AND COMMERCIAL MATTERS.

2. COMMENT: MINISTER RARIVOSON HAS BEEN A FREQUENT
VISITOR TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA OVER THE LAST
FEW YEARS. MADAGASCAR'S TRADE WITH RPC REMAINS SMALL
BUT IS EXPANDING, ESPECIALLY AS CHINA HAS RECENTLY
SUPPLIED MUCH NEEDED RICE TO COMPENSATE FOR CHRONIC
SHORTFALLS IN LOCAL PRODUCTION. PRC HAS SET OUT
ON AN AMBITIOUS AID PROGRAM IN MADAGASCAR, INCLUDING
DIFFICULT CONSTRUCTION OF MUCH NEEDED ROAD FROM
PORT OF TAMATAVE TO THE CAPITAL. LOCAL COSTS OF
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THIS PROGRAM WILL PROBABLY BE FINANCED BY IMPORTED
GOODS FROM CHINA. PRESUMABLY THESE ISSUES WILL
FIGURE IN THE WORK OF THE MADAGASCAR DELEGATION. BARRETT

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